



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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**MEXICAN NATIONAL INDICTED FOR FEDERAL FIREARMS AND DRUG
OFFENSES**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a federal grand jury in El Paso, Texas, returned a six-count indictment this afternoon against 35-year-old Sylvestre Flores, a Mexican National living in El Paso, charging him with firearms and drug offenses.

In all, Flores is charged with two counts of possession of an unregistered firearm and one count each of possession of a machine gun, carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime, transportation of a firearm with an obliterated serial number and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. The indictment alleges that on September 4, 2003, Flores: 1) was in possession of a machine gun and a silencer not registered to him; 2) received a firearm that had an obliterated serial number; and 3) possessed with intent to distribute marijuana. Court documents charge that on September 4, 2003, Flores met with undercover agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and exchanged approximately 20 pounds of marijuana for three Colt .38 caliber pistols, one fully automatic Ingram 9mm M-10 machine gun and one silencer. At the request of the defendant during a previous meeting with the undercover agents, the serial numbers on the pistols had been obliterated and removed prior to the firearms being transferred to the defendant.

Flores remains in federal custody. If convicted of the charges, Flores faces a minimum of 30 years in federal prison. This case is the result of a joint investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Texas Department of Public Safety. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald is prosecuting the case for the government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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